Application No.: 10/673,628 Attorney Docket No.: BRS-1

Amendment Dated October 17, 2003

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1 (original): A vehicle, comprising:

a frame;

an engine mounted to said frame;

an output drive shaft rotatably mounted relative to said frame, said output drive shaft being configured for selectively conveying one of forward drive power and reverse drive power to at least one wheel;

an input drive shaft rotatably mounted relative to said frame intermediate to said engine and output shaft and operatively coupled to said engine and output shaft, said input drive having an associated input drive output direction;

a first differential operatively coupled with said input drive shaft, said first differential having a pair of directional settings, a chosen said directional setting determining said input drive output direction, said directional setting being selectably one of a forward setting and a reverse setting; and

a reverser mechanism operatively associated with said first differential, said reverser mechanism being configured for selectably enacting one of said forward setting and said reverse setting of said first differential.

2 (original): A vehicle, comprising:

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a frame;

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an output drive shaft rotatably mounted relative to said frame, said output drive shaft being configured for providing a drive output;

a swing-arm member pivotally mounted upon said output drive shaft, said swing-arm member including a swing-arm chain drive, said swing-arm chain drive operatively receiving said drive output of said output drive shaft; and

a wheel rotatably coupled to an end of said swing-arm member, said swing-arm chain drive configured for transferring said drive output of said output drive shaft to said wheel.

3 (original): An off-road vehicle, comprising:

a frame including a main frame portion and a slam hatch door, said slam hatch door being selectively one of pivoted into an open position relative to said main frame portion and locked in a closed position relative thereto, said main frame portion and said slam hatch door in said closed position together defining a full roll cage for a passenger in said off-road vehicle;

at least one front wheel; and

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a rack-and-pinion steering system operatively coupled with each said front wheel, said rack-and-pinion steering system including a steering wheel, said steering wheel being rotatably fixed relative to said slam hatch door, said steering wheel being concurrently relatively pivoted upon pivoting of said slam hatch door.

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- 4 (new): The vehicle of claim 1, wherein said input drive shaft further has an input drive input direction, said engine being supplied only with forward gearing, said engine thereby being configured for rotating said input drive shaft solely in a first said input drive input direction, said input drive output direction being determined by said chosen setting of said first differential.
- 5 (new): The vehicle of claim 1, wherein said first differential has a detent engagement coupling associated therewith, said detent engagement coupling being selectably movable into one of a coupled position and a decoupled position.
- 6 (new): The vehicle of claim 5, wherein said coupled position and said decoupled position activate said forward setting and said reverse setting, respectively, of said first differential.

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7 (new): The vehicle of claim 5, wherein said reverser mechanism is configured for selectably moving said detent engagement coupling into said one of a coupled position and a decoupled position.

8 (new): The vehicle of claim 1, wherein said reverser mechanism includes a reverser lever, a reverser cable, a reverser actuation system, and a love-joy coupling.

9 (new): The vehicle of claim 9, wherein said reverser lever is selectively movable by a vehicle driver into one of a first lever location and a second lever location, said first lever location and a second lever location corresponding to said forward setting and said reverse setting, respectively, said reverser lever being operatively coupled with said reverser actuation system via said reverser cable, said love-joy coupling being operatively associated with said first differential, said love-joy coupling being selectively movable into one of a coupled position and a decoupled position, said coupled position configured for inducing said forward setting of said first differential, said decoupled position configured for producing said reverse setting of said first differential, said reverser mechanism being configured for selectably moving said love-joy

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coupling into one of said coupled position and said decoupled position based on said chosen one of said first lever location and said second lever location.

10 (new): The vehicle of claim 1, further comprising a seat mounted on said frame, said seat having a seat back, said input drive shaft and said output drive shaft each being positioned proximate said seat back.

11 (new): The vehicle of claim 2, wherein said output drive shaft has an output shaft differential associated therewith, said output shaft differential configured for receiving a drive power input for said output drive shaft.

12 (new): The vehicle of claim 11, wherein said output drive shaft further has a first disk brake mounted thereon, said first disk brake being operatively associated solely with one said wheel, said first disk brake being configured for selectively braking said one said wheel by interrupting a transfer of power thereto via said swing-arm chain drive.

13. (new): The vehicle of claim 2, further comprising an adjustable shock absorber operatively linking said wheel with said frame, an adjustment of said shock absorber inducing a change of position of said wheel relative to said frame.

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- 14. (new): The vehicle of claim 2, wherein said wheel is a first wheel, said swing-arm being a first swing-arm member, said vehicle further comprising a second wheel, a second swing-arm member, and an output drive differential.
- 15. (new): The vehicle of claim 14, wherein said first wheel is operatively coupled with said output drive shaft via said first swing-arm member, said second wheel being operatively coupled with said output drive shaft via said second swing-arm member, said first swing-arm member and said second swing-arm member being mounted on opposing ends of said output drive shaft, said output differential being operatively located on said output drive shaft intermediate of said first swing-arm member and said second swing-arm member, said output differential being configured for converting a drive input into said drive output to said output drive shaft, said drive output being separably delivered to said first swing-arm member and said second swing-arm member via operation of said output differential.
- 16. (new): The vehicle of claim 15, further comprising a first disk brake assembly and a second disk brake assembly, said first disk brake assembly and said second disk brake assembly being operatively mounted on said output drive shaft proximate

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said first swing-arm member and said second swing-arm member, respectively.

- 17. (new): The vehicle of claim 15, wherein said first disk brake assembly and said second disk brake assembly are capable of being separately actuated, said first disk brake assembly and said second disk brake assembly being selectively operable only over a braking of said first wheel and said second wheel, respectively.
- 18. (new): The off-road vehicle of claim 3, wherein said slam hatch door includes a door pivot mount at a first end thereof and a hatch release mechanism at a second end thereof, said door pivot mount being rotatably fixed to said main frame, said hatch release mechanism including at least one engagement pin, said at least one engagement pin being configured so as to be normally biased into an engagement-promoting position, the engagement-promoting position being such that said at least one engagement pin locks said hatch release mechanism in place relative to said main frame when said slam hatch door is in the closed position, said hatch release mechanism including a quick release handle configured for facilitating a movement of said at least one

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engagement pin away from the engagement-promoting position thereof.

- 19. (new): The off-road vehicle of claim 18, further comprising at least one hatch cylinder operatively connected to each of said main frame and said slam hatch door proximate said door pivot mount, each said hatch cylinder being configured for biasing said slam hatch door fully toward the open position thereof upon the disengagement of said hatch release mechanism.
 - 20. (new): A vehicle comprising:
 - a frame;

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a pair of front suspension systems positioned at opposing sides of said frame, each said front suspension system including an upper suspension member and a lower suspension member;

a plurality of interconnect pivot assemblies, each said interconnect pivot assembly attaching one of a said upper suspension member and a said lower suspension member to said frame, each said interconnect pivot assembly including an interconnect pivot and a threaded engagement member, each threaded engagement member being adjustably threadedly inserted to a given insertion length into a said one of a said upper suspension member and a said lower suspension member; and

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a pair of front wheels, one of each said wheels being mounted upon a respective said front suspension system.

21 (new): The vehicle of claim 20, wherein each said given insertion length is chosen so as to thereby influence at least one of an angle and a vertical position of a given said wheel relative to said frame.

22 (new): The vehicle of claim 20, wherein a said given insertion length can be up to about three inches.

23 (new): The vehicle of claim 20, further comprising a pair of adjustable-length shock absorbers, each said shock absorber interconnecting said frame with one of said front suspension systems, a shock length adjustment in a given shock absorber producing a change in a vertical position of a corresponding wheel relative to said frame.

24 (new): The vehicle of claim 23, wherein a combination of a said shock length adjustment and a change in at least one said insertion length associated with a given said wheel permit each said wheel to independently have a potential vertical adjustment range of about 12 to 16 inches.

25 (new): The vehicle of claim 23, wherein a combination of a said shock length adjustment and a change in at least one said

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insertion length associated with a given said wheel permit each said wheel to independently have a potential horizontal adjustment range of about 4 to 5 inches.

26. (new): An off-road recreational vehicle comprising:

a frame including a main frame portion and a pivotable, selectively-releasable slam hatch door, said main frame portion and said slam hatch door defining a full roll cage, said frame including a forward portion and a rear portion;

an first front suspension assembly adjustably mounted relative to said forward portion of frame and carrying a first front wheel, said first front suspension assembly being configured to permit a first wheel position adjustment of any one of an angle, a vertical placement, and an angular placement of said first front wheel relative to said frame;

an second front suspension assembly adjustably mounted relative to said frame and carrying a second front wheel, said second front suspension assembly being configured to permit a second wheel position adjustment of any one of an angle, a vertical placement, and an angular placement of said second front wheel relative to said frame, any said second wheel position

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adjustment being made independently of any said first wheel position adjustment;

a rack-and-pinion steering system carried by said frame and operatively associated with said first wheel and said second wheel;

a drive chain system mounted to said rear portion of said frame, said drive chain system including, operatively connected in order, an engine; a input drive shaft carrying a reverser mechanism; and an output drive shaft carrying an output differential and a pair of swing-arm drive mechanisms, said swing-arm drive mechanisms being located on opposite sides of said output differential, each said swing-arm drive mechanism including a swing-arm drive chain;

a pair of independently-operable disk brake mechanisms carried on said output drive shaft, each disk brake mechanism being operatively associated with only one said swing-arm drive mechanism; and

a pair of rear wheels, each said rear wheel being independently carried by a respective said swing-arm drive mechanism, said each said rear wheel being selectively driven by

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said swing-arm drive chain corresponding to said respective said swing-arm drive mechanism.